

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 172664

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TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE
INFO AMCONSUL KARACHI
AMCONSUL LAHORE

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SWEL, PK
SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT ON PAKISTANI DISASTER

PRESIDENT NIXON RELEASED FOLLOWING STATEMENT
AFTERNOON AUGUST 29 AT SAN CLEMENTE:

QUOTE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE THE DEEPEST CONCERN
AND SYMPATHY FOR THE PEOPLE OF PAKISTAN AS THEY BATTLE
TERRIBLE FLOODS, THE MOST SERIOUS OF THIS CENTURY, UNDER
THE LEADERSHIP OF PRIME MINISTER ZULFIKAR ALI BHUTTO.
WHOLE AREAS OF PAKISTAN ARE BEING RAVAGED. INITIAL
REPORTS INDICATE THAT THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE DEAD OR MISSING
IS TRAGICALLY LARGE, THAT MILLIONS OF PEOPLE ARE HOMELESS
AND THAT THE EXTENT OF PROPERTY DAMAGE IS MOUNTING INTO
HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS. THE PREVIOUSLY BRIGHT
PROSPECTS FOR PAKISTAN'S DEVELOPMENT HAVE BEEN TEMPORARILY
DIMMED.

IN AN IMMEDIATE RESPONSE TO THIS SITUATION, U.S.
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PAGE 02 STATE 172664

HELICOPTERS AND BOATS WITH THEIR CREWS ARE ALREADY

ENGAGED IN HELPING WITH IMMEDIATE RESCUE WORK AND WITH THE MOVEMENT OF VITAL RELIEF SUPPLIES. MEDICAL AND OTHER URGENT NEEDS ARE BEING MET. PAKISTAN NEEDS HELP AND I KNOW ITS FRIENDS IN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY WILL RESPOND GENEROUSLY.

IN RESPONSE TO LONGER TERM NEEDS, I HAVE DIRECTED THAT 100,000 METRIC TONS OF U.S. WHEAT BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE PEOPLE OF PAKISTAN TO PROVIDE SOME IMMEDIATE RELIEF BEFORE THEIR NEXT HARVEST.

FURTHER, I AM DIRECTING THAT THE UNITED STATES BEGIN NOW IN HELPING WITH THE REHABILITATION AND RECOVERY OF PAKISTAN. TO ASSURE PROMPT AND EFFECTIVE ACTION FOR IMMEDIATE RELIEF AND FOR OUR CONTRIBUTION TO AN EARLY RECOVERY, I HAVE ASKED AID DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR MAURICE J. WILLIAMS, MY SPECIAL RELIEF COORDINATOR FOR MAJOR DISASTERS ABROAD, TO GO TO PAKISTAN TO REVIEW WITH THE PAKISTAN GOVERNMENT IMMEDIATE RELIEF AND LONGER RANGE RECOVERY NEEDS. HE WILL REPORT TO ME, AND AFTER APPROPRIATE CONSULTATION WITH THE CONGRESS, WE WILL CONTINUE TO ASSURE THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES, IN COOPERATION WITH OTHER COUNTRIES, WILL DO ALL THAT IT CAN TO HELP OUR PAKISTANI FRIENDS RECOVER FROM THIS TERRIBLE DEVASTATION. END QUOTE
ROGERS

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